

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 05468 060858Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-06 /023 W
-----006726 062245Z /65
R 060809Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9567
INFO AMCONSUL KRAKOW

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EO 11652N/A
TAGS: SCUL, PL
SUBJ: PLAQUE FOR KOSCIUSZKO SARCOPHAGUS

REF: A. STATE 176233, B. WARSAW 4709

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE LETTER CITED IN REF A. BEFORE TRANSMITTING IT TO CARDINAL WOJTYLA, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONTACT ZACHARIASIEWICZ AND ASK HIM TO RECONSIDER THE TIMING OF HIS GROUP'S TRIP TO POLAND. IN VIEW OF CARDINAL WOJTYLA'S PERSONAL INTEREST, PLUS THE EXTRA DIGNITY HIS PRESENCE WOULD LEND THE OCCASION, WE BELIEVE THE DEDICATION OF THE PLAQUE SHOULD TAKE PLACE WHEN HE IS AVAILABLE. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE (REF B), WOJTYLA HAS PROPOSED HOLDING THE CEREMONY IN LATE AUGUST, DURING CARDINAL CODY'S VISIT. IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE, WE RECOMMEND POSTPONEMENT UNTIL AFTER CARDINAL WOJTYLA'S RETURN FROM ROME ON NOVEMBER 20.

2. I FEEL STRONGLY THAT MR. ZACHARIASIEWICZ SHOULD CONSIDER PROPOSING AN ALTERNATIVE DATE FOR THE CEREMONY WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE CARDINAL TO PARTICIPATE. IT MAY BE EMBARRASSING AND INVONVENIENT FOR THE AMERICAN SPONSORS TO CHANGE THEIR PLANS, BUT SUCH A CHANGE WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO OFFENDING THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT POLISH CHURCH LEADER (AND A MAN WHOSE STANDING IN THE CARINALATE
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HAS LED TO HIS BEING SPOKEN OF AS A POSSIBLE FUTURE CANDIDATE FOR THE PAPACY). MOREOVER, CARDINAL WOJTYLA'S PARTICIPATION WOULD GIVE THE CEREMONY MUCH GREATER IMPACT, BOTH WITH THE POLISH PUBLIC AND ABROAD. I FEEL, TOO, THAT THE CARDINAL SHOULD BE THE CENTRAL FIGURE AT THE CEREMONY AND SHOULD BE ASKED TO UNVEIL THE PLAQUE.

3. ALTERNATIVE DATES FOR THE CEREMONY COULD BE: A)
DURING THE PLANNED VISIT OF CARDINAL KROL TO POLAND IN
NOVEMBER, 1977, IF CARDINAL KROLL WILL BE HERE UNTIL
CARDINAL WOJTYLA HAS RETURNED, OR B) KOSCIUSZKO'S BIRTH-
DAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1978.

4. IF AN ALTERNATIVE DATE IS SELECTED, THERE IS NO
REASON WHY CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI SHOULD NOT PROCEED TO
INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION TIMED TO THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE
BATTLE OF SARATOGA, OCTOBER 17, 1977. AT A SUBSEQUENT
CEREMONY IN KRAKOW, THE RESOLUTION COULD BE READ AND
OTHER APPROPRIATE NOTICE GIVEN TO THE ACTION OF THE
CONGRESS.

4. WE WILL DELAY DELIVERING MR. ZACHARIASIEWICZ'S
LETTER TO CARDINAL WOJTYLA UNTIL WE RECEIVE A RESPONSE
TO THIS MESSAGE.
DAVIES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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